

Small Town Water Reuse: City of Filer's Transition to Achieving Class A Recycled Water

Abstract: The City of Filer, an agricultural community located near the Snake River in Idaho's Magic Valley, found it increasingly difficult to meet effluent quality limits on their Reuse and NPDES discharge permits with their existing lagoon system, while also trying to plan for and accommodate growth. The City faced ever-growing potable water demands resulting from the latest arsenic treatment standard, which had the potential to require the City to increase its water supply or to provide arsenic removal facilities in the near future.

Community leaders recognized early on the need to develop a proactive and comprehensive road-map to its overall water resources needs. They wanted to meet their immediate discharge challenges and provide a clear vision for the future. Early in the planning process, the City identified effluent reuse as a primary goal for its future treatment facility upgrades with the long-range goal of reducing the demand placed on its drinking water system for non-potable uses. After extensive public outreach, including knocking on nearly every door in town, the community reached a consensus. They chose to build a state-of-the-art water reuse facility that would leverage their investment to provide the highest sustainability for future generations and the environment.

City leaders chose membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology as the preferred treatment process due to the enhanced treatment that can be achieved with relatively low staffing requirements. Currently, after nearly two years of consistent operation, Filer's treatment plant produces recycled water of exceptional quality. The treatment facility includes the infrastructure for producing Idaho Class A recycled water suitable for irrigation of residential lawns, edible food crops, golf courses, parks, and schoolyards.

Presenters: John Hurley and Pete Stayton, P.E.

Professional Backgrounds:

Presenter:	John Hurley
Title:	Chief Operator
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Professional Background for John Hurley:

25 years' experience City of Filer
Class 3 Wastewater treatment
Class 1 Wastewater Collections
Land App
47 year resident of Filer

John came from a farming background and his goals include, educating the younger generation about wastewater and the role it plays in the future. John strives to help other communities to reach a conclusion of how to best treat their wastewater. John knows first-hand that the best is not out of reach for even the smallest of towns.

Presenter: Pete Stayton, P.E.

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Professional Background for Pete Stayton:

Pete Stayton is a Project Engineer for J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho with broad experience in water and wastewater system design, planning and construction management. His commitment to effective engineering design is second only to his passion for treatment operations success.